



Infommat

A Weekly Review

Friday, September 14, 2001

OVERVIEW

◆ Unemployment rate edges up

The unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage points in August to 7.2% as a result of a small drop in employment combined with an increase in labour force participation.

◆ Building permits unchanged

The value of building permits issued in July remained at \$3.4 billion, unchanged from June. Residential and non-residential sectors posted the strongest year-to-date growth since 1989.

◆ Average weekly earnings rise slightly

Average weekly earnings for all employees were virtually unchanged in June, edging up 0.2% to \$661.38. On a year-over-year basis, average weekly earnings were up 1.3%.

Unemployment rate edges up

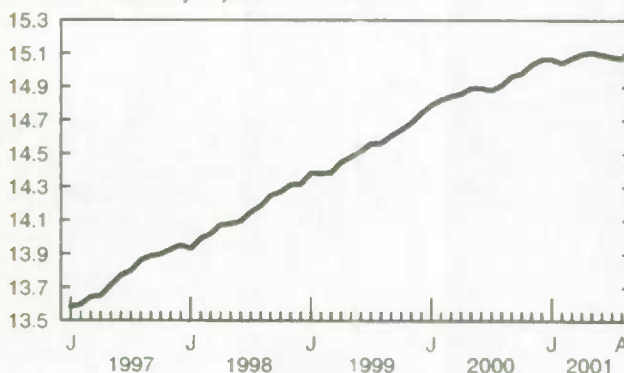
The unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage points in August to 7.2% as a result of a small drop in employment combined with an increase in labour force participation. Employment edged down 8,000 in August, which brings job losses since May to 35,000.

During the last four months, the groups hardest hit were adult women and young people. Since May, employment fell by 23,000 among adult women and 27,000 among youth aged 15 to 24. An increase in labour force participation of women pushed their unemployment rate up 0.2 percentage points to 6.2%. The unemployment rate of youth increased 0.3 percentage points to 12.7%. While employment among adult men aged 25 and over also changed little in August, gains since May total 15,000, and their unemployment rate edged up to 6.1% in August.

Overall, the 2001 summer labour market for students was similar to the year before. This summer, the average employment rate at 53.5%, was virtually unchanged (+0.1 percentage points) from the summer of 2000 and the unemployment rate remained at 13.6%. On average, the proportion of employed students with full-time jobs was 47.1%, up slightly from a year ago.

Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



(continued on page 2)



Statistics
Canada

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Canada

Canada

... Unemployment rate edges up

Among students aged 20 to 24, the average employment rate increased slightly to 70.0%, while their unemployment rate fell 1.3 percentage points to 7.0%. Among students aged 15 to 19 the average unemployment rate rose 0.6 percentage points to 16.8%, as a result of an increase in labour force participation.

Employment declines were concentrated in professional, scientific and technical services, where 18,000 job losses occurred in August. This brings losses over the last four months to 66,000. Employment in trade also fell (-21,000) in August, following four consecutive monthly gains totalling 53,000. However, employment in health care and social assistance increased by 19,000 in August, offsetting most of the losses over the previous four months. Employment in public administration edged up 13,000, following a decrease of 17,000 in July.

Among the provinces, British Columbia and Ontario account for most of the recent job losses. In August, employment fell by 20,000 in British Columbia, and the unemployment rate increased 0.7 percentage points to 7.9%. In Ontario, however, employment changed little in August, but it is down 17,000 since May. An increase in the number of job seekers pushed the unemployment rate up, from 6.3% in July, to 6.6% in August.

Note to readers

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey collects data on young people aged 15 to 24 who were attending school full-time in March and intend to return to school full-time in the fall. The labour market summary of students for the summer of 2001 is based on the average of three peak months for student employment, that is, June, July and August.

Employment edged up by an estimated 10,000 in Quebec, but an increase in labour force participation pushed the unemployment rate up to 8.4%. Over the last three months, employment gains in the province total 13,000. In Newfoundland, the unemployment rate rose to 15.9%, also as a result of an increase in the number of job seekers. In Saskatchewan, however, the unemployment rate fell from 5.8% to 5.2%.

For more information, see **Labour force information** (Internet: 71-001-PIB, \$11/\$103; paper: 71-001-PPB, \$8/\$78) or contact the Client Services Unit (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Martin Tabi (613-951-5269). Labour Statistics Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Labour Force Survey, August 2001
Seasonally adjusted¹

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	16,246.8	0.2	15,074.0	-0.1	1,172.9	7.2
Newfoundland	253.4	1.7	213.2	1.4	40.2	15.9
Prince Edward Island	74.6	0.3	65.5	-0.5	9.0	12.1
Nova Scotia	468.9	-0.2	423.0	-0.4	45.9	9.8
New Brunswick	375.1	-0.2	333.1	0.5	42.0	11.2
Quebec	3,792.4	0.5	3,473.2	0.3	319.2	8.4
Ontario	6,388.3	0.2	5,967.5	0.0	420.8	6.6
Manitoba	583.3	-0.3	553.0	-0.2	30.3	5.2
Saskatchewan	502.9	0.1	476.9	0.8	26.1	5.2
Alberta	1,707.5	-0.2	1,633.6	-0.1	73.9	4.3
British Columbia	2,100.4	-0.3	1,935.0	-1.0	165.4	7.9

¹ Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

Building permits unchanged

The value of building permits issued was \$3.4 billion in July, unchanged from June. The January to July 2001 value was the housing sector's best result for the first seven months of any recorded year. Advances in both residential (+9.3% to \$12.7 billion) and non-residential (+17.7% to \$10.8 billion) sectors contributed to this seven-month showing, which was the strongest since 1989.

For the January-to-July period, the residential sector has been healthy as a result of gains in both multi-family (+20.3%) and single-family (+5.4%) dwellings. Compared with the first seven months of 2000, the largest dollar gains occurred in Ontario (+8.2%) and in British Columbia (+25.4%). Nova Scotia had the largest decline (-16.8%).

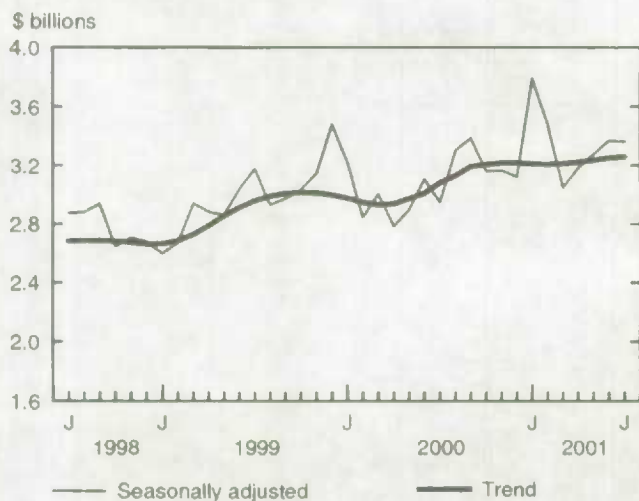
Despite this year-to-date growth, however, the residential sector dropped 10.2% to \$1.8 billion in July, as construction intentions for multi-family dwellings plunged. Municipalities issued \$438 million in permits for multi-family dwellings, down 32.1% from the peak in June. In July, permits for single-family dwellings were up 0.6% to \$1.3 billion. July's overall monthly decline in the value of residential building permits came in large part from Ontario (-17.4%) and Quebec (-9.1%). In both provinces, the multi-family component drove the decline. The largest growth was recorded in Alberta (+5.1%).

Led by commercial and institutional intentions, July's 13.9% rebound in non-residential building permits followed two straight monthly declines. The value of commercial permits jumped 23.3% to \$850 million. Institutional intentions increased 8.5% to \$510 million, with the strongest gains in the medical and hospital

Value of building permits by census metropolitan area
Seasonally adjusted

	July 2001	June to July 2001	January to July 2001	January- July 2000 to January- July 2001
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	15.6	-12.9	105.0	4.9
Halifax	37.4	18.2	209.7	-39.9
Saint John	6.5	10.0	44.6	-10.6
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	8.8	-30.9	106.8	23.0
Québec	45.9	-27.8	393.3	23.0
Sherbrooke	18.2	135.7	85.1	36.2
Trois-Rivières	9.8	-4.9	67.8	-3.2
Montréal	306.9	-10.5	2,600.5	49.5
Hull	30.7	14.8	234.7	42.4
Ottawa	130.3	4.0	882.4	12.1
Oshawa	50.9	-35.4	325.1	-18.9
Toronto	676.2	-2.6	5,061.6	8.5
Hamilton	65.9	-14.3	495.3	20.2
St. Catharines-Niagara	34.6	14.4	221.4	5.4
Kitchener	120.6	63.3	547.9	27.8
London	31.9	-62.5	447.1	54.0
Windsor	64.9	52.9	307.9	3.0
Sudbury	10.0	32.4	45.8	1.8
Thunder Bay	9.7	-3.3	59.1	-14.2
Winnipeg	44.8	1.4	268.9	-16.9
Regina	18.3	13.1	140.3	46.8
Saskatoon	18.6	111.8	154.2	-11.7
Calgary	191.7	6.8	1,292.0	-0.5
Edmonton	85.9	-5.5	724.6	4.2
Vancouver	275.2	12.4	1,930.1	21.6
Victoria	35.9	29.8	204.0	21.5

Total value of building permits



category, as well as government buildings and social service projects. Only the industrial component declined in July (-1.8% to \$242 million), pushed down by the utility and transportation category.

In the first seven months of 2001, municipalities issued \$10.8 billion in permits for the non-residential sector, up 17.7% from the same period of 2000. The increase was mainly driven by advances in commercial and institutional construction intentions and a rise in the industrial component.

Strong increases in non-residential permits issued for the Montreal area led Quebec to the largest gain among the provinces (+47.2% to \$2.5 billion); all three components showed growth. In contrast, Nova Scotia posted the largest decline (-37.9% to \$162 million); all three components saw decreases.

The July 2001 issue of *Building permits* (Internet: 64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) is now available. To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; clarver@statcan.ca). For more information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca). Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Average weekly earnings rise slightly

Average weekly earnings for all employees were virtually unchanged in June compared with May, since they edged up 0.2% to \$661.38. On a year-over-year basis, average weekly earnings were up 1.3%.

Average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees were \$16.73 in June, up six cents from May. Average hourly earnings were up 1.4% since June 2000. Average weekly hours for hourly paid employees were down 0.2 hours to 31.3. A decrease in paid overtime accounted for about half of the drop in average hours.

Average weekly earnings, all industries, June 2001
Seasonally adjusted

	\$	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	661.38	0.2	1.3
Newfoundland	602.40	0.9	1.0
Prince Edward Island	521.51	0.4	1.4
Nova Scotia	562.44	-0.3	0.4
New Brunswick	587.53	0.7	0.5
Quebec	620.45	0.5	1.4
Ontario	708.22	0.2	1.5
Manitoba	589.90	0.8	-0.7
Saskatchewan	591.25	-0.2	0.2
Alberta	681.60	0.4	2.4
British Columbia	661.60	0.3	0.9
Yukon	752.60	0.5	-1.1
Northwest Territories ¹	860.78	1.0	..
Nunavut ¹	775.06	1.0	..

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

.. Figures not available.

Note to readers

With the January 2001 data, the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours began publishing its estimates based on the North American Industry Classification (NAICS). The NAICS-based estimates are not comparable to the previously published estimates based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of 1980. To facilitate this transition, a NAICS-based historical database from January 1991 to December 2000 has been produced. A concordance table between NAICS and SIC codes is available on request. For more information on the NAICS, consult the Statistical methods page on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

Average weekly earnings for both goods- and service-producing sectors were virtually unchanged in June from May. By industry, the strongest earnings growth (compared with June 2000) was in accommodation and food services, due mostly to increases in hourly pay rates for hourly employees.

Compared with June 2000, earnings declined in the construction sector and in the management of companies and enterprises sector.

In June, the number of employees on payrolls decreased 10,800. Most provinces recorded small employment losses.

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators are presented in the June issue 2001 of **Employment, earnings and hours** (Internet: 72-002-XIB, \$24/\$240). For more information, contact Jean Leduc (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca). Labour Statistics Division.

New from Statistics Canada



Canadian social trends Autumn 2001

Each quarter, *Canadian social trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. The Autumn 2001 issue includes the following articles: "Family disruptions and childhood happiness," "Kids and teens on the Net," "Generosity: 30 years of giving," and "Mobile homes in Canada."

The Autumn 2001 issue of *Canadian social trends* (Internet: 11-008-XIE, \$8/\$27; paper: 11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36) is now available. For more information, contact Susan Crompton (613-951-2556; estsc@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

Education quarterly review September 2001, Vol. 7, no. 4

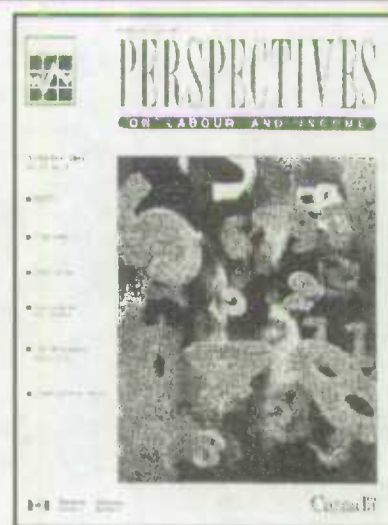
The September 2001 issue of *Education quarterly review* contains four articles: "Socio-economic changes in the population and participation in job-related training," "Factors affecting Grade 3 student performance in Ontario: A multi-level analysis," "The school-to-work transition: What motivates graduates to change jobs?" and "Third International Mathematics and Science Study: Canada report." The study on participation in job-related training is available as a free preview article on the *In depth* page of Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

The September 2001 issue of *Education quarterly review*, (Internet: 81-003-XIE, \$16/\$51; paper: 81-003-XPB, \$21/\$68) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

Perspectives on labour and income Autumn 2001

The lead article in the autumn issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, "Who contributes to RRSPs? A re-examination," examines the influence of income, as well as sex, age and pension coverage, on RRSP participation. The second article offers a historical perspective on strikes, lockouts and workdays lost in Canada, while another measures low income intensity among urban and rural Canadian families. Two other articles, "Liberal arts degrees and the labour market" and "Employment and earnings of postsecondary graduates", examine the labour market experiences of recent graduates.

The Autumn 2001 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* (paper: 75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58) is now available. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



New from Statistics Canada

Employer and employee perspectives on human resource practices 2001

The report titled *Employer and employee perspectives on human resource practices* is the first in the *Evolving Workplace Series*, a cooperative venture of Human Resources Development Canada and Statistics Canada to promote research on the workplace using the Workplace and Employee Survey.

Employer and employee perspectives on human resource practices (Internet: 71-584-MIE, free; paper: 71-584-MPE, \$15) is now available. For more information, contact the client services unit (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Survey of Financial Security: Estimating the value of employer pension plan benefits 2001

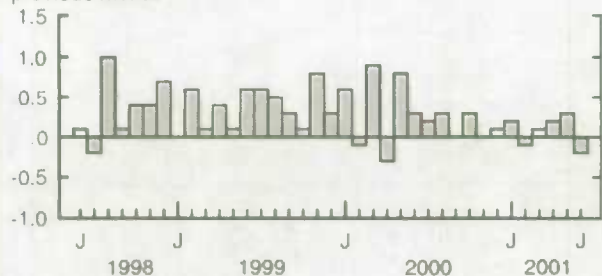
The *Survey of Financial Security: Estimating the value of employer pension plan benefits* describes the methodology that the Survey of Financial Security (SFS) will use to estimate the value of employer-sponsored registered pension plan benefits for various groups of people. Earlier this year, Statistics Canada conducted a public consultation on the proposed methodology. This document includes updates as a result of feedback from data users.

The report *Survey of Financial Security: Estimating the value of employer pension plan benefits* (Internet: 13F0026MIE01003, free) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.

Current trends

Gross domestic product

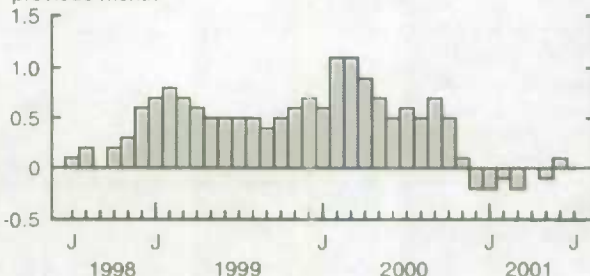
% change,
previous month



Total economic activity declined 0.2% in June, after a 0.3% advance in May.

Composite Index

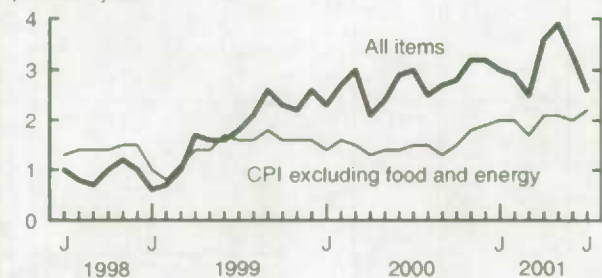
% change,
previous month



The leading indicator was unchanged (0.0%) in July, pulled down by a moderation in housing.

Consumer Price Index

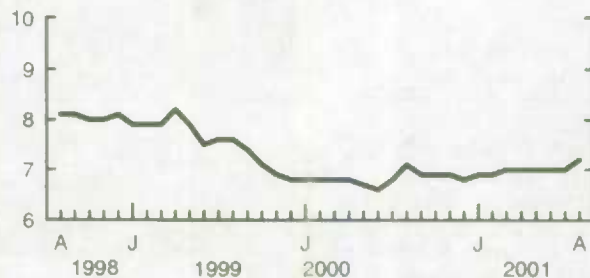
% change,
previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.6% higher in July than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.2%.

Unemployment rate

%



In August, the unemployment rate edged up to 7.2% as a result of a small drop in employment and an increase in labour force participation.

Manufacturing

\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments declined 1.9% in June to \$43.3 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders posted a 0.6% decrease to \$49.5 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In June, the value of merchandise exports declined 1.4% to \$36.1 billion. Imports increased 0.8% to \$30.3 billion.

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted except the Consumer Price Index.

Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1992)	June	797.6	-0.2%	1.2%
Composite Index (1992=100)	July	166.2	0.0%	1.1%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q2 2001	44.7	0.6%	-11.3%
Capacity utilization rate (%)	Q2 2001*	83.2	-0.4†	-2.6†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	June	24.2	-0.3%	5.2%
Department store sales (\$ billions)	July	1.72	3.3%	8.7%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	June	133.8	1.5%	0.0%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	June	32.9	0.2%	2.8%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August*	15.1	-0.1%	1.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	August*	7.2	0.2†	0.1†
Participation rate (%)	August*	65.9	0.1†	-0.1†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	June	661.38	0.2%	1.3%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	August	153	-1.3%	-12.6%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	June	36.1	-1.4%	-0.1%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	June	30.3	0.8%	-0.6%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	June	5.8	-0.7	0.2
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	June	43.3	-1.9%	-3.4%
New orders (\$ billions)	June	43.1	-3.7%	-5.1%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	June	49.5	-0.6%	2.3%
Inventory/shipments ratio	June	1.51	0.03	0.13
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	July	117.1	-0.3%	2.6%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	July	128.9	-0.6%	0.9%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	July	138.9	-1.7%	-2.0%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	July*	106.3	0.3%	3.0%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

* new this week

† percentage point

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A weekly review

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SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
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Cereals and oilseeds review	June 2001	22-007-XPB	15/149
Production of eggs	July 2001	23-003-XPB	110
ANALYTICAL STUDIES			
An assessment of Employment Insurance and social assistance reporting in the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics	June 2001	11F0019MIE	free
An assessment of Employment Insurance and social assistance reporting in the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics	June 2001	11F0019MPE	5/25
Payroll taxes in Canada revisited: Structure, statutory parameters, and recent trends	August 2001	11F0019MIE	free
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Education quarterly review, Vol. 7, no. 4	2001	81-003-XIE	16/51
Education quarterly review, Vol. 7, no. 4	2001	81-003-XPB	21/68
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS			
Canadian social trends	Autumn 2001	11-008-XIE	8/27
Canadian social trends	Autumn 2001	11-008-XPE	11/36
HUMAN RESOURCES			
Employer and employee perspectives on human resource practices. The evolving workplace series, no. 1	2001	71-584-MIE	free
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INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS			
Gross domestic product by industry	June 2001	15-001-XIE	11/110
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK			
Building permits	July 2001	64-001-XIE	14/145
LABOUR STATISTICS			
Labour force information	August 2001	71-001-P1B	8/78
Labour force information	August 2001	71-001-PPB	11/103
LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS			
Perspectives on labour and income	August 2001	5-001-XPE	18/58
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Cement	July 2001	44-001-XIB	5/47
Electric power statistics	June 2001	57-001-XIB	9/85
Footwear statistics	June 2001	33-002-XIB	6/11
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	July 2001	46-002-XIB	5/47
Natural gas transportation and distribution	May 2001	55-002-XIB	13/125
Production and disposition of tobacco products	July 2001	32-022-XIB	5/47
Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas	May 2001	26-006-XPB	19/186

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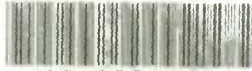
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